

Message Text

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PAGE 01 THE HA 01144 021511Z

44

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

ACDA-05 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 /065 W

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R 021427Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7691

INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USDEL MBFR

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L THE HAGUE 1144

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, HU, NL, UR

SUBJECT: BREZHNEV SPEECH TO MOSCOW COMMUNIST PARTY CONGRESS GETS
CAUTIOUS DUTCH REACTION

REF: THE HAGUE 950

1. DUTCH FOREIGN MINISTER'S REACTION TO BRRZHNEV SPEECH, PROVIDED BY MFA SPOKESMAN, CONTINUES TO REFLECT HIS ANGER AT THE HARD LINE HE ENCOUNTERED ON HIS RECENT VISIT TO HUNGARY (REFTEL).

2. COMMENTING THAT MFA WAS STUDYING BREZHNEV'S KEYNOTE SPEECH
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PAGE 02 THE HA 01144 021511Z

AND WOULD NOT FOR SOME TIME BE ABLE TO GIVE A "BALANCED OPINION",

MFA SPOKESMAN HAS TOLD PRESS THAT VAN DER STOEL HAD NOTED CERTAIN PASSAGES DEALING WITH THE IDEOLOGICAL STRUGGLE. SPOKESMAN WENT ON TO SAY THAT VAN DER STOEL HAD DETECTED SIMILAR SOUNDS ON HIS RECENT VISIT TO HUNGARY AND THAT FOREIGN MINISTER WOULD LIKE TO STATE, AS HE DID ON THAT OCCASION, THAT THE IDEOLOGICAL STRUGGLE CANNOT BE CONFINED TO STRICTLY ACADEMIC FIELD. ACCORDING TO SPOKESMAN, FOREIGN MINISTER WOULD REGRET IF THE IDEOLOGICAL STRUGGLE IN THE POST-HELSINKI PERIOD WERE TO AFFECT RELATIONS BETWEEN EUROPEAN STATES, EVEN IF THIS WERE TO HAPPEN INDIRECTLY THROUGH DEVELOPMENTS OUTSIDE EUROPE, AND IN ANGOLA IN PARTICULAR.

3. COMMENT: WE CONTINUE TO RECEIVE INDICATIONS THAT BUDAPEST VISIT WAS UPSETTING EXPERIENCE FOR DUTCH. VAN DER STOEL, NORMALLY A PLACID AND SOFT-SPOKEN MAN, HAS NOT HESITATED TO VOICE HIS ANGER AND DISAPPOINTMENT IN PUBLIC, FIRST IMMEDIATELY UPON RETURNING AND NOW AGAIN THROUGH MFA SPOKESMAN. SPEAKING OUT IN THIS FASHION WILL HAVE THE EFFECT OF PUTTING VAN DER STOEL IN STRONGER POSITION TO DEAL WITH MEMBERS OF HIS OWN PARTY WHO ON OCCASION SEEM TO VIEW SITUATION IN EAST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES THROUGH ROSE-COLORED GLASSES.
GOULD

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PARTY LINE, SPEECHES, PARTY MEETINGS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 MAR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ullricre
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976THEHA01144
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760079-0517
From: THE HAGUE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t197603102/aaaadlzq.tel
Line Count: 82
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 THE HAGUE 950
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ullricre
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 MAR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24 MAR 2004 by MartinML>; APPROVED <02 AUG 2004 by ullricre>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BREZHNEV SPEECH TO MOSCOW COMMUNIST PARTY CONGRESS GETS CAUTIOUS DUTCH REACTION
TAGS: PFOR, HU, NL, UR, CPSU, (STOEL, MAX VAN DER), (BREZHNEV, LEONID)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006